2014641

Eastern Santa Clara Subbasin Groundwater Study
Santa Clarita, CA

May 2003

Background:

- 1934 – 1987 The site consists of 996 acres and housed approximately 350 buildings (only few left standing) that were used in the manufacturing, storage and testing of explosives. Dynamite, ammunition, practice bombs, flares, signal cartridges, fireworks, fuses, boosters are some of the explosives and/or related explosives were manufactured at the site

- 1967 – 1999 Whittaker Corporation owned the site.

- 1999 (early) Santa Clarita L.L.C acquired the property from Whittaker to be developed into a master-planned community.

- Thus far, only 10 acres have been developed into a commuter rail station.

- 1997 (mid) perchlorate was detected in four drinking water production wells ***slightly above*** Department of Health Services (HDS) level for perchlorate in drinking water.

- 1998 perchlorate was confirmed in two production wells at ***above*** DHS levels for perchlorate. All four wells are now shut.

- 2/14/2002 DTSC (regulatory authority) and Santa Clarita LLC (current site owner) entered into an Enforceable Agreement for site remediation strategy.

- Several workplans/studies have been prepared/conducted (other than Corps) to-date and suggested remedial strategy but no assessment of the lateral and vertical extent of contamination in either the soil or groundwater has been conducted on a regional basis.

- Much of the perchlorate found in the Santa Clarita Valley seems to be related to military use. Perchlorate is contaminating the Saugus Formation (source of drinking water in the Santa Clarita valley) resulting in a loss of present and future water supply and slowing regional development growth.

- Congress authorized, under the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act for FY01, up to $7,000,000 and directed DA (Army Corps of Engineers) to participate in determining a long-term solution to the problems of groundwater contamination due to perchlorate.

Perchlorate - ~~Site~~ Santa Clarita, CA

Document from
Army Corps of Engineers,
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- Cost Sharing Agreement was signed in early April 02 with the project sponsor (Castaic Lake Water Agency). The project Sponsor will provide 50% cash contribution and in-kind services toward the feasibility study, currently underway.

- The feasibility study is estimated to cost more than $9,000,000. The Sponsor working with the local Congressman and his staff are trying to increase the limit to $10,000,000.

- Feasibility Study Workplans, prepared under contract with CH2Mhill, were approved by DTSC in mid October 02.

- Drilling Contract to CH2Mhill was awarded in early September 02. Actual field work (drilling) began on 18 October 02 after receiving DTSC approvals of the workplans. The focus is on the following 3-objectives:

  1. To characterize the pathways of contamination impacting the 4 production wells (in order to restore a portion of lost capacity)
  2. To arrest potential contamination downgradient of the impacted production wells
  3. To address potential contamination in the eastern portion of the study area (east of the San Gabriel Fault Zone)

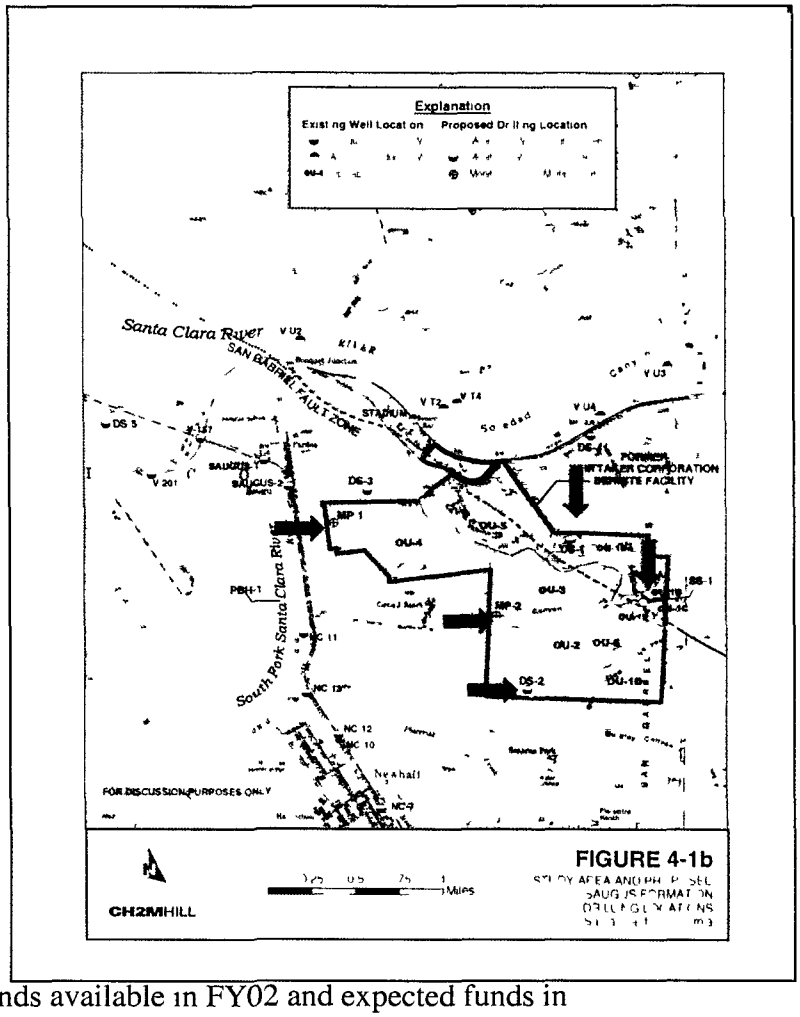

FIGURE 4-1b

Current On-going Activities:

- The current drilling contract (Phase I) consists of deep wells as well as shallow wells, soil and water sampling and reports. The work was broken down into 2 phases based on the funds available in FY02 and expected funds in FY03/04.

- Deep wells drilling (noted by an arrow on Figure 4-1b) commenced on 18 October 02 of MP-1 (1,650 ft) and MP-2 (1,200 ft) followed by SS-1 (700 ft), DS-1 (800 ft) and DS-2 (1,120 ft).

- The sponsors wired his FY03 portion of funds in early November 02.

- The drilling operation went so well and was fast that we issued a modification to the drilling contract to include SS-1 and DS-2, which were part of phase II.

- Reason for this modification was: (1) Make use of the drillers being out there and save on additional mob/demob cost. (2) Get a quick/general characterization of the site (the five wells are located at the site perimeter) and begin the analysis while we await the FY03 budget release. (3) Evaluate the remaining wells work plan, based on these preliminary results, and adjust the plan accordingly.

- With the addition of SS-1 and DS-2 wells ... drilling of 5 out of 9 deep wells has been completed to-date.

- In early December 02, a fifth production well (stadium well) was found to contain perchlorate and has been shut since.

- The Sponsor will begin a sampling program of their wells in mid January and will develop a plan/proposal and submit to DTSC for an interim solution to perchlorate in their wells. The data the Corps will develop will be shared with the Sponsor to help them in developing their interim solution.

- The Corps well sampling program to begin early January 03. First draft Tech. Memo expected in mid/late Spring 03.

- Public Involvement: The Corps will participate in all public meetings (3 meetings estimated) during the Feasibility Study phase as well as we are attending, as needed, the regularly held Citizen's Advisory Board (CAG) meetings

- FY03 funds were released in April 2003. The Corps is in the process of negotiating a contract with CH2MHill to complete Phase II of the feasibility study. Off-site shallow drilling, which is part of Phase I of the contract, has been delayed due to site access and lack of a "Generator."